

Intelligrated Breaks Ground On New Expansion

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In an economic climate that has seen the shuttering of some businesses, one Mason company is bucking the trend.

Intelligrated Inc., the fast-growing supplier of material handling systems to retailers and other companies, broke ground Monday on a new facility that is expected to bring 200 new jobs over the next three years.

An artist's rendering of the planned office expansion for Intelligrated Inc. The building is expected to be completed in the fall of 2012.

The new 60,000-90,000-square-foot facility located next to intelligrated's Mason headquarters on Innovation Way is expected to be completed in the fall and will allow the company to expand its engineering, customer service and research and development staffing and testing facilities.

"We aim to be the most technologically-advanced player in the material handling industry," said Intelligrated CEO Chris Cole. "The new building will help us to expand our footprint, grow our technical staff and create advanced productivity solutions."

A lack of space at its current facility prompted the move, said Cole. The company chose to expand in Mason due to its pool of professional talent, proximity to urban and rural settings and because of a "terrific" working partnership with city leaders, he said.

Intelligrated received a \$15 million expansion package from Ohio and Mason that included a combination of an extension of the company's existing job creation tax credit, state and local government loans, property tax abatement and a grant from the State.

"It's a substantial commitment and investment on (Intelligrated's) part," said Mason Mayor David Nichols. "Not only has this been an amazing accomplishment, this has been achieved in one of the worst economic slumps in modern history.

Intelligrated, one of Greater Cincinnati's largest privately held companies, saw growth of more than 38 percent in 2011, said Cole.

The company employs about 2,000 nationally, including 800 in Ohio. Besides its Mason headquarters and engineering facility, which employs 200, Intelligrated employs about 400 at a nearly 300,000 square-foot plant in West Chester.

Intelligrated has operations in several states, Canada and Mexico.

The company, which produces conveyor systems and other material handling equipment, was launched in 2001 by Cole, and president and COO Jim McCarthy. Intelligrated's ownership includes Gryphon Investments in San Francisco and Tudor Capital of Boston.

Cole credits the company's success to its strong commitment to customer service

"We've been very careful to keep our customers happy for the long run and we've gained a lot of share in the business in a bad economic environment," he said. "We're not done growing... we expect this to be another record year."

From the desk of rrichardson